REMARKS

present in this 1-13 and 16-21 Claims are now application, with new claims 16-21 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. It should be noted that the amendments to original claims 1-13 of the present application are nonnarrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations. For example, amendments have been made to broaden the claims; reference numerals in the claims; remove/change any phrases unique to European practice; remove multiple dependencies in the claims; and to place claims in a more recognizable U.S. transitional phrase of the including the form, use "comprising" as well as the phrase "wherein". Other such nonnarrowing amendments include placing apparatus-type claims (setting forth elements in separate paragraphs) and methodtype claims (setting forth elements in separate paragraphs) in a more recognizable U.S. form. Again, all amendments are nonnarrowing and have been made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-13 and 16-21 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

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